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No zinc at all had arrived since 6 June 1955. Arrears in deliveries amounted to:  
 600 tons from the Soviet Union      500 tons from China  
 300 tons from Poland                400 tons from Rumania

5. Because he was unable to remedy this situation, Minister for Foreign Trade, Heinrich Rau, requested:

- a) that all stocks of zinc on hand be put to use,
- b) that the old zinc matrices (Zinkformen) be recast, and
- c) that the state reserves be opened.

To this suggestion, Wunderlich replied that in the field of general machine construction:

- a) there were no further stocks on hand,
- b) the old zinc matrices at the Berliner Vergaserwerk had been used, and
- c) the state reserve was exhausted.

Wunderlich recommended using diplomatic approaches if necessary to induce immediate deliveries of zinc.

6. As a stopgap measure, the Ministry for General Machine Construction had instituted a check on all zinc supplies already in the production process. That way, up to 25 June, Wunderlich had been able to obtain 10 tons for the VEB Drackguss, Berlin-Weissensee, so that an almost complete work stoppage at the Berliner Vergaserwerk was held off for 14 days.

7. Furthermore, with the agreement of the State Planning Commission, the following immediate measures had been put into effect:

25X1

b) For the immediate future, zinc die-casting scrap would be sent directly to the die-casting works, by-passing VHZ Schrott und Umschmelzung. And in addition, even finished zinc die-cast products - from the spare parts stock of DEZ Maschinen und Fahrzeuge, for example - could be employed for casting if the actual and anticipated market conditions showed that stocks were in excess of the coming half-year's requirements.

8. Wunderlich added that his Ministry would exhaust every possibility to alleviate the situation for the next two or three weeks at least. However, he pointed out that these measures would affect only the zinc die-casting area and thereby carburetor production only. He asked Minister President Grotewohl to intervene personally to remedy the situation.

1. ☐ Comment Presumably for the USSR.

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